



<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/717,543
	Filing Date	November 21, 2003
	First Named Inventor	THOMAS GERLACH et al
	Art Unit	3721
	Examiner Name	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number	

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Firm or Individual	William D. Breneman, Esq. BRENEMAN & GEORGES
Signature	
Date	May 6, 2004

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**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

THOMAS GERLACH and  
DIRK DROEGE

U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: November 21, 2003

Examiner:

For: STAPLING DEVICE

May 6, 2004

\* \* \* \* \*

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

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Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 56 of the Rules of Practice in Patent and Trademark Cases (37 CFR § 1.56) Applicants submit copies of supplemental references uncovered in a search report by the German Patent Office dated March 15, 2004 of prior art searched in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Great Britain, USA, Japan (abstracts), USSR (abstracts), European Patent Office and WIPO. These references including literature are included on Form PTO-1449 appended hereto as Exhibit B and are as follows:

THOMAS GERLACH et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

U.S. Patent No. 5,005,751A (Manfred Radtke et al.)  
April 9, 1991

U.S. Publ. 2002/0060388A1 (Hiroyuku Wakabyashi)  
May 23, 2002

U.S. Patent No. 6,142,353 (Heinz Boss et al.)  
November 7, 2000

U.S. Patent No. 5,772,198 (Kazushi Yamamoto)  
June 30, 1998

U.S. Patent No. 5,147,557 (Jacques Meier)  
December 29, 1992

**German References**

DE 197 50 143 A1 (Brehmer Buchbindereimaschinen)  
April 9, 1991

Abstracts in English of the cited German references  
have been obtained where available and are included herewith as  
Exhibit A.


Although no fee is believed required for the  
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THOMAS GERLACH et al.  
U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

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*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

Sheet	1	of	1
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**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/717,543
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Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		DE 197 50 143 A1	05-20-1999	Brehmer Buchbin		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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